

Re-examined by Mr. Mackean.—The market price of cartridges fluctuated considerably. Mr. Mackean said his first objection was that the evidence of the plaintiffs showed that they were acting for the Chinese Government, and therefore the sum claimed was not recoverable. The Chinese Government had no objection in the second place that there was nothing to show that Shih, the second plaintiff, was authorized to sue, except that his name had been added.

His Lordship said he was not prepared to say what was necessary.

Mr. Mackean said under the circumstances of the case he intended that there was nothing to do but to allow him to have his usual damages by the fulfillment of the contract. It appeared that Mr. Greenman had stated his inability to carry out the contract about ten days after it was signed, which was some time in August; but it was never shown that any attempt had been made by the plaintiffs or their agents to purchase any cartridges. The agent had advised him in September that what he could sell cartridges at the price of £100 per thousand, which, as far as he knew, was the price he could get them at. There was no evidence that the agent bought them, or in fact made any attempt to get any other cartridges, or that any damage had been sustained.

His Lordship said the measure of damages was usually supposed to be the difference between the sum contracted for, and that for which they could be bought.

Mr. Mackean said the measure of damages was the difference at the time of the breach. The plaintiffs ought to have shown an attempt at once to supply the cartridges. Mr. Grossman had failed to obtain, but they had not done so, and had only asked Mr. Jackson the price at which he could supply them some time after the date of the contract.

A telegram from Lord Wolseley states that Sir Hubert Stewart returns to Korti to-day having left the Guards in an impregnable position at Gakul.

Sixty of the Mahdi's men have been taken prisoners during the march.

The forward movement of our troops has completely surprised the Arabs.

A telegram from Lord Wolseley states that on the date of the contract, the day after it was signed, not at any later date, as there were great fluctuations in the market. He commented that the damages in this case ought to be merely nominal.

The plaintiffs had brought forward in proof of the market price of these cartridges at the time of the breach. When the contract was entered into they were at a price which would have enabled the fulfillment of the contract, according to Mr. Jackson's evidence, they were only just preferable at a higher price in September, which showed that the market was fluctuating.

The Attorney-General submitted that it was abundantly proved there was a contract which had been broken by the defendant, and that the plaintiffs had suffered damage in consequence. The defendant had nothing to do with it, but every shadow of discreditable conduct on his part.

If a steamer is found there General Gordon will be communicated with immediately.

Darro, 8th January.

The 42nd Regiment has arrived at Korti and started to-day for El Obeid.

Sir Hubert Stewart left Korti to-day for Gakul accompanied by the 19th Hussars, Cavalry Corps, 35th Regiment and Naval Brigade.

The wells of Gakul will be protected by the 35th regiment; while the Guards and the remainder of the Force continue to march to El Matanah.

PROPOSED ANEXATION OF AUSTRALASIAN ISLANDS.

LONDON, 1st January.

The Victorian Government has requested Lord Derby to authorize telegraphically the annexation of the neighbouring islands which are still available.

BRITISH REVENUE RETURNS.

LONDON, 1st January.

The British revenue returns for the year ended and twenty-five thousand pounds short of thirty-one thousand two hundred and five pounds, as compared with the same period last year.—The decrease is chiefly in taxes.

The revenue returns for the year amount to eighty-four millions and five hundred thousand, showing a decrease of £4,531,250 as compared with last year.

THE DYNAMITE EXPLOSION ON THE UNDER-GROUND RAILWAY.

LONDON, 3rd January.

A dynamite explosion took place last evening on the Metropolitan Underground Railway near King's Cross.

Two trains were crossing at the time when windows were smashed and lights completely extinguished.

The only other effects of the explosion were the slight damage to the tunnel and a few passengers cut by broken glass.

RUSSIAN POLICY IN CENTRAL ASIA.

ST. PETERSBURG, 3rd January.

The Journal de St. Petersburg publishes an article to-day protesting against the misconstruction of the English press with respect to Russia's policy in Central Asia. It says there is no ground for antagonism between England and Russia, and it will be the fault of the English press, by misrepresenting every action as agreed to by Britain and Russia in India, to bring about designs.

TRROUBLES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

CARLTON, 1st January.

England has proclaimed her Protectorate over the Transvaal, and she has now sent a force to assist the Boers.

It is believed here that the Boers intend opposing General Warren, and that they are well supplied with ammunition.

THE RADICAL CHIEF ON FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POLICY.

LONDON, 7th January.

Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at Birmingham yesterday, said that notwithstanding clamour, the British Government would not destroy Egypt, and that they had no right to interfere with its internal affairs.

Mr. Chamberlain said England was not entitled to prevent other foreign Powers from colonizing, but if the rights of Australia were threatened the whole power of England would be employed in defense thereof.

SAINT LUCIA.

BERLIN, 6th January.

The North German Gazette publishes an article admitting British superiority over Saint Lucia.

INDIAN BANK DIVIDENDS.

MADRAS, 6th January.

The Bank of Bengal pays a dividend of the rate of 9 per cent per annum for the half-year ended 31st December.

The Bank of Bombay pays 5 per cent.

THE BRITISH MINISTRY AND ITS VACILLATING POLICY.

MADRAS, 6th January.

The Times of India has a special telegram stating that great importance is manifested in England at the vacillating policy of the Government.

THE LONDON TIMES.

LONDON, 5th January.

The London Times, in a leader, declares the Ministry had shown themselves grossly and infamously incapable and demands either their resignation or to say that the whole of Herat, Afghanistan, cannot be an object of English designs.

THE DISTURBANCES IN UPPER BURMAH.

RANGOON, 27th December.

Very serious disturbances are occurring in Upper Burmah, and are fraught with the utmost danger to King Edward VII., the Emperor, and the British Monarchy.

The important town of Hsien-ho has been captured by 500 Chinese, the leader intimating his intention to retain possession in defiance of the law.

There is at present no form of settled Government north of Mandalay. Strong bands of dacoits roam about the country, committing frightful excesses.

The native troops are half mutinous for want of pay.

THE CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

16th January, 1885, 4 P.M.

WATER LEVEL.

LOW WATER.

WATER LEVEL.

LOW WATER.

WATER LEVEL.

EXTRACTS.

"THE SEA-BOARD."

"The waves are up to the main-mast, the masts to the yard. And a joy to the heart is a goal that it may not reach. No sense that for one the limits of sense expand. No hearing or sight that is used to form or speech. Learn's over the soul that shadow and silence teach. Hear's over the noise that never they awake. Heard's over the light that never the load world's side. Claps over the case of the lifelong scheme's control. Where thoughts are pure, till the waters of life be dead. The goal is not, and over again the goal."

A. SWINNERTON.

ELECTRIC INSECTS.

Some of the savants are investigating electric insects. General Davis, of the British army, who was a famous insect collector, once picked up a "wasp bush" in the West Indies, and received a shock which paralyzed his arm. On shaking the insect off he noticed six red marks on his skin—the impression of its feet. The particular bug is now being studied closely. Some of the luminous beetles are found to be very electric, and one investigator, upon taking an unknown caterpillar in India, received such a shock that his entire left side was paralyzed, and he remained for a long time dangerously ill.

THE BALLET.

With Fanny Elsler the greatest artist of the ballet d'acte passes away. The ballet d'acte, it is perhaps necessary to explain, was a dance which included a regular story or drama, with a complete plot told in dumb show. It was distinguished from the divertissement, which was a merely incidental dance, conveying no particular meaning and intended only to show the art in a variety of graceful poses and attitudes.

Both the ballet d'acte and the divertissement were common in the palmy days of the art—that is, between 1825 and 1845; but it was the former which specially aroused the enthusiasm of the public and brought out the highest powers of the performers. And herein Fanny Elsler, in the judgment of most skilled critics, excelled all her peers. Taglioni's movements were more perfect, Céritto was more vivacious and buoyant, Adèle Dumilâtre more graceful; but no artist of the century combined so strikingly the talents of a great dancer and a great actress. So says Mr. Benjamin Lumley: and he ought to know, for he was for twenty years director of Her Majesty's Theatre, and about the largest "deals in larynxes and limbs" in Europe. The inimitable Fanny Elsler, as Mr. Lumley tells her, had all the qualities necessary for success on the choreographic stage. Her dancing was a rare combination of strength and elegance. Some of her rivals—including the great Taglioni herself—were graceful rather than handsome; but Elsler had a superb and magnificent beauty which conquered all hearts. Her mind had been almost as carefully cultivated as her muscles; which was not surprising, seeing that for someone no less a person than the Baron Friedrich von Gentz, diplomatist, jurist, philosopher, and man of the world, made it his business to superintend her education. The liaison between the statesman of nearly seventy and the dancer of seventeen was a curious one. It is now said to have been purely "platonic." Gentz was interested by the fair Vienna only as a teacher of extremely promising pupils. In fact,

That instant delight he took.

To see the virgin mind her book.

Was it the master's secret joy.

To hold to the fixed boy.

It may have been so; though a censorious world sometimes thought otherwise. At any rate, Fanny's connection with Gentz, and through him with fashionable and literary society, helped her in some degree in making a fortune in Germany, whence her fame spread rapidly to France, England, America, and Russia. It was worth while to be a prima ballerina at that time when Fanny Elsler was young. The ballet was much the most important part of the opera in those days, the days, it is remembered, of Malibran, Grisi, Lablache, and Mario, and when the lyric drama was even more in favour with people anxious to be considered fashionable and cultivated than it is now. The manager who wanted to be successful had to be more careful about his *premières dansées* than about his tenor and soprano. The sensation of a London season was the appearance of a new ballerina in a new ballet. "Far more interesting than the opera," wrote the judicious critic of the year 1845, "was the diversion of 'L'Aurore,' which introduced to this country Mlle. Adèle Dumilâtre." In July, 1845, the Queen paid a State visit to the opera, and, as her Majesty's special command, Fanny Elsler and Céritto appeared in a *pas de deux*. The opera was "Il Barbier," performed by a cast which included Grisi, Mario, Lablache, and Fernandes. But it created little excitement compared with the divertissement, in which the two great artists danced against one another. In fact, the bold-drawn ballerinas of European eminence held a position such as might be envied by our own equally scarce and almost equally lucky prime donne. Taglioni, Carlotta Grisi, or Céritto received in a night a sum much more than the less fortunate dramatists of those days could earn in twelve months. For some fifteen years Fanny Elsler's life was a long series of triumphs. Gold, gifts, and declarations of love came to her in floods. She was equally popular in Philadelphia and St. Petersburg. When she starred in America, cities were illuminated and floral arches were erected in her honour. When the *pas de quatre* between Taglioni, Céritto, Lucille Grahn, and Grisi was arranged, it was feared that Grisi would not be able to leave Paris in time for the occasion. A vessel was chartered from the Steam Navigation Company to wait the sylph at a moment's notice across the Channel; a special train was ready for her at Dover; relayed horses were waiting between Paris and Châlons. When the *pas de quatre* was actually performed it made a European sensation. "From the palace to the shop-counter it was the great topic of the day, to the exclusion of every interest, however serious."

All this has passed away. No one canes much for this bullet now. It has almost disappeared from the serious operatic stage. It is still seen in burlesque, extravaganzas, and comic opera, and so far as regards tasteful arrangement of costumes, dresses, and picturesque groups, it is probable that our stage-managers are considerably in advance of their predecessors. But the bold d'acte and the *pas de deux* we seldom see, as we well do our old feeling is one of wonder. Why did our fathers rave about this sort of thing? The spectacle of a lady, in costly but nevertheless gaudy white vestments, twirling and leaping all alone about the stage is far from impressive, and is not, in fact, much appreciated by an audience above the level of "Theatre of Varieties" or a Christmas pantomime. The skill displayed is rather that of the acrobatic than of the artist. It is true we have no Taglioni and Elsler now. But, if they could reappear among us, we should lose our heads over them! Perhaps not. In taste at least, and in the some artistic fitness, we may claim to have made much progress since 1845. Possibly if the famous *pas de quatre* could be

repeated for us we should esteem it as lightly as we do the costumes and household decorations of the early Victorian period. Yet, since dancing is undoubtedly one of the fine arts, it is to be regretted that our refined and scholarlike stage-directors have no dancers so gifted, so carefully trained, and so devoted to their work, as those who were at the disposal of the unregenerate managers of forty years ago.—*St. James's Gazette.*

THE HEREDITY OF LONGEVITY.

It would be interesting to study more closely, in the case of contemporaries and other aged people, the ages of their near relatives and immediate ancestors. It will probably be found—not rarely—that long-lived persons have not been stronger than those who have been short-lived. They have their "often-infirmities" like other people. It will also frequently be found that their brothers and sisters have been as short-lived, or more so, than others. At the same time an element of heredity may not seldom be traced, or may have to be recognised, for we have not yet sufficient data for dogmatic conclusions.

We are able to give to-day some few more particulars of the ages of the immediate family relatives of Sir Moses Montefiore, which we have reason to believe are correct, though in one particular at variance with a statement in a previous number. Thus one parent died at seventy-nine, one at eighty-three, his grandfather at eighty-seven, his grandmother at ninety-three, a brother at seventy-five, another at sixty-nine; a sister at eighty-four, another at seventy-nine, another at eighty-two. These nine ages at death give an average longevity of eighty-one years. The first four—those of the parents and grandparents of Sir Moses—are given as an average of eighty-five years.—*Lancer.*

THE SHAFT'S ARMY.

Our correspondent with the Afghan Frontier Commission, writing from Teheran says:—"From what we have seen of the Shah's army a very poor opinion has been formed of its efficiency. The numbers are of little consequence, for any amount of men such as those to be found in Teheran could do nothing in a war. The men are all of such a size as a man remains a soldier till he dies. When a guard is come upon anywhere, the men are to be seen squatting on the ground, or coming up, one of them, on seeing a European, would get up hastily, seize his gun, and stand in a ridiculous position which we took to mean presenting arms, and we raised our hands to our hats in recognition. Think of a guard sitting on the dirty ground of a street or road with his uniform on! The uniform bore all the marks of such a habit, and the soldier all over was in keeping with this starting-point. He is unshorn, unshaved, often unbuttoned. Being generally small men, they seem as if one could lift them up, and by a good shot relieve them of uniform, musket, and all. What their drift might be we had no opportunity of judging. They are all armed with a musket which dates from the Brown Bess period. The Shah's army would be found were it tried, to be as useless as the walls of Teheran. The Turkish troops could scatter them like chaff; and a Russian brigade might walk from one end of Persia to the other. If it suited Russian policy, and a fitting opportunity offered, the occupation of Persia would be but little more than the snap-fingered into an easy fortress. I have been asked what would be the effect of such an event on British prestige in the East. If Russia should do this it would give her bushire, in the Persian Gulf, which would become a fortress and an arsenal, with a fleet threatening Bombay. The Russians at Merv, Sharshak, or even Herat, would be as nothing in comparison, and yet we talk of these places with all seriousness, and not a word about this dangerous state of Persia, with Russia all along her northern frontier ready at any moment to step in.—*Daily News.*

LOCAL OPTION IN CANADA.

The extraordinary results claimed from the liquor-legislation in Canada make it important that all those interested in the rearrangement of the drink traffic should know what the legislature really is. Last year an Act was passed by the Dominion Parliament dividing the country into license districts, each under the charge of a Board of Licensing Commissioners. Certain clear principles were laid down to guide the Commissioners in their work. The Act provides:—1. That any person applying for a new license would have to get the signatures of one-third of the electors of the district to his application; 2. That a successful applicant, prior to securing a license, must enter into a bond in the sum of £100, with two sureties of £50 each, for the payment of all fines which may be imposed for infractions of the law; 3. That no license shall be granted "within the limits of any town, in incorporated village, township, or other municipality if three-fifths of the qualified electors declare themselves in favour of prohibition." The Act also determines the number of hotel and saloon licenses to be granted. In cities, towns, and incorporated villages one license is made for localities largely patronised by visitors in summer, two hotel licenses in excess of the proper number being allowed to them from May to October. The arrangements with regard to off-licenses is that one for each 400 may be granted up to 1200, and one for every 1000 after, but those licenses do not carry the right to sell liquor in any quantity less than a pint. The result of this system is claimed to be that in Eastern Canada, where prohibition does not obtain, the liquor traffic is less obnoxious and less demoralising than in the prohibition States of America. Some details in the working of the scheme should be mentioned. Hotels, saloons, and shops are forbidden to sell liquor from seven on Saturday night until eleven next Monday morning, and from eleven at night until six in the morning on the other days. On polling day for dominions, provincial, or municipal elections, all places where drink may be had are rigorously closed. Two justices are empowered to forbid the sale of liquor by any licensee to any person who, by excessive drinking, misbehaves, wastes, or loses his estate, or greatly injures his health. This prohibition is not confined to one city, but extends to any city to which the drunkard is likely to resort. A wife may obtain a similar prohibition in the case of a drunken husband; a husband in that of a drunken wife; a parent, tutor, or employer in that of a person under 21 years of age. All this indicates that a drunkard has a bad time of it in Canada. In the North-West Territories, where the Indian reservations lie, there is an absolute prohibition of the traffic, although permits may be obtained for the private or medicinal use of alcoholic drink. This rule is made because whisky is the bane which drives the Indians wild. Once they have tasted spirits they will take anything that reminds them of it, even the medicine "Pain-killer," which is sold as an antidote to rheumatism. Local Option in Canada must stand a longer term than this before any definite option may be formed upon it, but, so far, the earliest point towards a complete and triumphant success.—*Echo.*

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Hongkong, 1st August 1881.

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NOTICE.

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JAS. B. COUGHTRE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 27th March, 1882.

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Agents.

Sun Fire Office.

Hongkong, 12th May, 1881.

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Agents.

Hongkong, 1st January 1882.

[16]

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF LESTER IN HAMBURG.

Agents.

Hongkong, 18th January, 1882.

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THE MAN OF INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LAW SIN SANG, Esq.

YEH CHONG PENG, Esq.

CHAN LI CHOY, Esq.

WOO LIN YUEN, Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE, No. 2 Queen Head West, Hongkong, 14th March, 1881.

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TRANSACTIONS FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

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WOOLIN YUEN.

Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE, No. 2 Queen Head West, Hongkong, 14th March, 1881.

[192]

LOCAL OPTION IN CANADA.

The extraordinary results claimed from the liquor-legislation in Canada make it important that all those interested in the rearrangement of the drink traffic should know what the legislature really is. Last year an Act was passed by the Dominion Parliament.

The Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

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Hongkong, 16th November, 1872.

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Agents.

HONGKONG, 14th November, 1882.

[168]

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Agents.

HONGKONG, 1st December, 1881.

[10]

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Purely mutual; profits belong to Policy-holders and are applied annually.

STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING

1881.

Accumulated Funds £11,973,944.

Surplus over all Liabilities £2,129,338.

Value of Reserve Fund according to valuation made by the Government £2,717,593.

Income for year 1881 £2,717,593.

C. SETON LINDSAY,

Res. Manager.

Department of the East.

HARLEY DALRYMPLE & CO., Agents, Hongkong.

Willie.

[6]

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